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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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VIRULENT SMALLPOX.

During the week ended June 26 two deaths from smallpox were reported in El Paso, Tex., and two cases of the disease with one death in the city of New Orleans, La.

During the week ended July 10 no new cases of smallpox were reported at New Bedford, Mass. The epidemic at this place seems to be under complete control.

POST-VACCINATION TETANUS.

STUDIES ON ITS RELATION TO VACCINE VIRUS.

By JOHN F. ANDERSON, Director, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

Since 1902 the United States Public Health Service has, under authority of an act of Congress, exercised supervision over the manufacture and interstate sale of biological products such as vaccine virus, diphtheria antitoxin, etc. In this supervision the service has considered as coming under its jurisdiction the investigation of certain accidents which, on rare occasions, may follow the use of biologic products, such as the various manifestations of the serum disease or anaphylaxis, severe reactions after the use of bacterial vaccines, and the rare cases of tetanus occurring subsequent to vaccination with vaccinia.

Since 1904 the writer has paid particular attention to cases of tetanus following vaccination and has endeavored to collect accurate data concerning such accidents. These data have consisted, in part, of information in regard to the date of vaccination; result and character; date of onset of symptoms of tetanus; result; whether a shield was used; name of manufacturer of the virus used; samples of the same lot of virus; record of tests made by the manufacturer; number of doses of vaccine of the same lot of virus; and the number of persons vaccinated at the same time. Where it has been possible to secure samples of the same lot of virus used to vaccinate the person later developing tetanus, the virus has been exhaustively examined